

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD December 18 2023**

Comes now the hour of 8:30 am. on the 18th day of December, 2023 in the Commissioners Room in the Noble County Annex building, Albion, Indiana, being the time, date and place set for a regular session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County, Indiana.

Present were:

Gary Leatherman, President
Anita Hess, Vice President
Gary Timmerman, Member

Also present were:

Jacqueline L Knafel, County Coordinator
Dennis Graft, Noble County Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Zack Smith, Highway Engineer

Gary Leatherman, Commissioner President, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30am.

CORRESPONDENCE

- IDEM - Receipt of Air Permit Application Jeld Wen Ligonier

MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as corrected. Gary Timmerman moved to approve, Anita Hess seconded and motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Claims in the amount of \$455,612.11 were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion to approve the 9-page report came from Gary Timmerman. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- After the last commissioners meeting about the Storm and Erosion ordinance, the group was charged with preparing a list of potential committee members, a list was received from Scott Ziegler. This list included Commissioner Gary Timmerman, Watershed Director Rod Renkenberger, Privat Land Surveyors, Scott Zeigler and Josh Lash. Noble County Surveyor Randy Sexton, Soil and Water director Stacey McGinnis, USDA Russell Baker, LCI Construction Matt Young, Diehm Construction Levi Diehm, a rep from Farm Bureau Insurance, Jaquar Construction Anthony Burkshire and resident Carrie Sietsma.
- Randy Sexton had also put together a list for the committee, that consisted of a commissioner, the Noble County Surveyor, a rep from the City of Kendallville, a rep from the Town of Albion and the Town of Avilla, a rep from the lakes (recommendation Jean Thomas), an ag rep (recommendation Sue Lawrence), Matt Meerson from the St Joe river basin and Rod Renkenberger from the Maumee river basin.
- These recommendation will be taken under advisement and discussed further at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Handbook – Jackie Knafel, County Coordinator, had received some information about a company that will update our employee handbook. This was at the recommendation of Madison County. The company, New Focus will redo the handbook for a cost of \$6,000.00 and will update annually at a cost of \$150.00. With time limited when the commissioners can meet to discuss the handbook – this seems like a good solution to updating the handbook. The commissioners will discuss this further at their next meeting.
- Quit Claim deed. Anita Hess moved to approve the Quit Claim deed for the Commissioners to Joseph J Ulle and Heather Marie Ulle for a tax sale property taken by the commissioners. Gary Timmerman seconded and the motion carried 3-0. The original deed is to go to Stephanie Leonhardt, Deputy Auditor, for processing. A copy will be sent to Dennis Graft and a copy will be retained in the commissioners file.

HIGHWAY

Richard Rogers, Highway Inspector, has the following construction update for the commissioners:

- Utility Permits – Frontier Communications – duly entered
- Richard also has a driveway variance for resident on 400 S. Richard is reporting that the sight distance is 100 ft short but is located in the best possible location. Gary Timmerman moved to approve the variance. Anita Hess seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Zack Smith, Highway Engineer, is present for the engineering update:

- Zack has submitted the project for the latest round of LPA projects. All projects have been accepted for consideration
- Zack reported that the CCMG available funds have been increase to 1.5 million rather than one million as in the past. Zack reported that he will submit projects in hopes of getting the full amount.
- Annual Bids - Zack shared the annual bid list and is recommending that they be accepted as received for 2024 services and supplies. Gary Timmerman moved to accept the bids. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.
- HMA 2023 -01 = this project is complete and closed
- HMA 2023 -02 - Pulvers will start this project early spring.
- Permitting software. - This is concerning the broadband installation and the waiving of the permitting fees. While this has created an increased workload for permits, it was agreed to as an incentive to bring broadband to Noble County and no one wants to discourage that progress. This will remain in effect at this time and the permitting software is put on hold until such time as the cost is covered by permitting.
- Zack had presented a copy of the Highway Construction standards to the commissioners. There had been some right of way issues and the standards were reviewed to come up with a solution to this issue. Teresa Tackett was present for this as well as the UDO directly ties to the highway standards. Zack suggested some minor changes to section b and c that should correct the problem. Zack will amend and have the changes available for the January meeting.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION

Zack Smith, Project Manager, was present to update the commissioners on the Courthouse renovation. Zack has a Guaranteed Maximum Price from Weigand construction. The GMP is sitting at \$11,229,327.00. Zack indicated that Weigand and American StructurePoint have been amazing to work with and have a really good team in place to assure that they are committed to stay at the GMP. Gary Timmerman moved to allow Zack to sign the GMP with Weigand. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

TRI STATE FUNDS for Child Care

Jenna Anderson was present to update the commissioners on the child care project that the commissioners invested \$50,000.00 of CEDIT funds. This was a pilot program in which there were hopes that a lot of employers in the county would buy into. This was to assist families with the high cost of child care. Jenna indicated that a lot of employers either will not get back with her or it is a situation that this is a company that is based at other locations and are not doing it as they have plants all over. The original plan called for the county to fund 1/3, employer 1/3 and the family 1/3. With employers not responding, Jenna is asking if a family could qualify without employer support. This will at least give the family some relief. The county's portion would never exceed the 1/3 portion. If a family qualifies and the employer chooses not to participate, the family will pay 2/3 with 1/3 coming from the county. The commissioners are on board with this suggestion, stressing that this \$50000.00 was an one time commitment and when that money is gone there were no plans for future commitments. Gary Timmerman moved to approve this change. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH Board Appt

The commissioners have received a request to reappoint Bea Lopez to the Noble County Health Board from January 1 2024 through December 31, 2026. Gary Timmerman moved to appoint Bea Lopez to the board for the 3 year term. Anita Hess seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

APPEAL

In final discussion, the commissioners again discussed the court order for the probation officers being non-exempt. In further research that Gary Leatherman had done, it was found that those

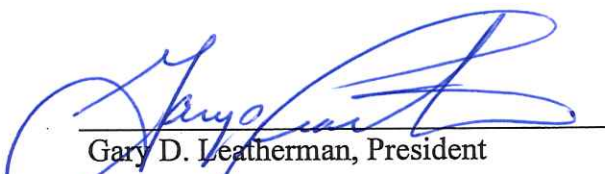
officers do meet the criteria for exempt status and that the original job descriptions for those two employees that WIS did were labeled exempt from the beginning. Anita Hess moved to appeal the court order. Gary Timmerman seconded and motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Anita seconded the motion. Motion carried.

This session of the Board of Commissioners of Noble County was at approximately at 11:00 am recessed from day to day until January 8, 2024

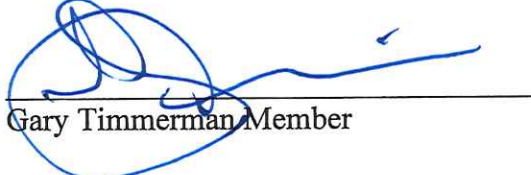
Dated this 8TH day of JAN, 2024




Gary D. Leatherman, President



Anita Hess, Vice President



Gary Timmerman Member

ATTESTED: 

Michelle Mawhorter, Auditor